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Security Council

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Letter dated 15 June 2001 from the Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I attach my assessment of the work of the Security Council during the Presidency of the United Kingdom in the month of April 2001 (see annex). This assessment has been prepared under my own responsibility following consultations with members of the Council, pursuant to note S/1997/451 of 12 June 1997, and should not be considered as representing the views of the Council.

I should be grateful if this letter and the attached assessment could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Jeremy **Greenstock**

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Annex to the letter dated 15 June 2001 from the Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Assessment of the work of the Security Council

United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (April 2001)

Introduction

Under the presidency of Sir Jeremy Greenstock, Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the Security Council dealt with a range of issues in April. Much of the Security Council's time was devoted to African issues, but the Council also considered a wide range of other specific situations. During the month the Council adopted three resolutions and one presidential statement. It held six public meetings, one private meeting and its members met in informal consultations on 14 occasions. Two meetings with troop-contributing countries were also held.

As part of its aim of improving the transparency of the Council, the United Kingdom presidency held as many debates as possible in public. This included a number of meetings where measures were taken to improve the interactive quality of the debate. The presidency addressed the news media after each session of consultations and was authorized to make a number of statements to the press (see below). The presidency also briefed non-members of the Council after each session of informal consultations. The United Kingdom delegation maintained a web site which included an updated version of the Council's programme of work and all the statements to the press.

Africa

Democratic Republic of the Congo

On 4 April, Council members heard a report on the recent démarche by a group of Kinshasa-based Ambassadors on FLC leader Jean-Pierre Bemba. This had been partially successful in obtaining FLC cooperation with the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUC). It was agreed that the President should convey Council members' views to the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Kamel Morjane, and to the Ugandan Chargé d'affaires. Council members were briefed by the Secretariat on 17 April on the obstruction by RCD-Goma of the deployment to Kisangani of the Moroccan MONUC contingent. The Secretary-General's report on MONUC, issued on 17 April, was introduced by the Assistant Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, Hédi Annabi, during informal consultations on 20 April. Discussion focused on the challenges ahead, especially in the area of disarmament, demobilization and reintegration, and the question of interim administration in areas from which foreign forces had been withdrawn.

Report of the Panel of Experts on the Illegal Exploitation of Natural Resources

The Chairperson of the Panel of Experts on the Illegal Exploitation of Natural Resources and Other Forms of Wealth of the Democratic Republic of the Congo briefed Council members on the Panel's report on 18 April. Council members agreed that the report highlighted issues of serious concern that must be followed up and that the Panel's recommendations should be considered in the wider context of the peace process. The need was emphasized for an open debate to allow those named to respond. It was agreed that the Panel members should be asked for an updated work plan in view of their request for a three-month extension of their mandate and that a public Council meeting should be held late in April or early in May.

Security Council mission to the Great Lakes area

Security Council members discussed the Council's mission to the Great Lakes during consultations on 4 and 11 April. On 11 April it was agreed that Ambassador Levitte (France) would lead the mission, that the mission should begin soon after the 15 May deadline for production of disarmament, demobilization and reintegration and withdrawal plans,

and that it should visit the capitals of all parties to the Lusaka Ceasefire Agreement.

West Africa

On 4 April, the Department of Peacekeeping Operations updated Council members on the situation in Sierra Leone. The Director of the Africa Division briefed the Council on the latest deployments by the United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone (UNAMSIL) outward in Lunsar and its plans to move on to Makeni and Magburaka. He noted that RUF cooperation continued to be flawed, including their refusal to remove roadblocks.

On 11 April, the Assistant Secretary-General for Political Affairs, Ibrahima Fall, briefed Council members on the United Nations inter-agency mission he had led to West Africa. He noted that the mission's recommendations would include the need for an integrated and comprehensive strategy for the subregion; a strengthened partnership between the United Nations and the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), and enhancing ECOWAS capacity. The mission's report would be issued in the week commencing 7 May, after which the Council would resume its discussion of the issues.

Also on 11 April, Ambassador Mahbubani of Singapore, Chairman of the Committee established pursuant to resolution 985 (1995) concerning Liberia, briefed Council members on his forthcoming familiarization visit to the region. It was agreed that his objectives should be to look into the impact of the sanctions regime, to assess the results of the arms embargo and the difficulties in implementation of the sanctions regime, to reiterate to the Government of Liberia the demands set out in resolution 1343 (2001) and the consequences of non-compliance by 7 May, and to bring to the Government of Liberia's attention the list of RUF members to be expelled from Liberia. There was also some discussion of the letter dated 22 March from the President of Liberia to the Secretary-General, in particular the request for the establishment of a monitoring/verification system. It was agreed this should be taken up early in May as part of the discussion of Liberian compliance required by resolution 1343 (2001).

On 19 April, the Deputy Secretary-General briefed Council members on her recent visit to Sierra Leone. She reported on the deployment of UNAMSIL to Lunsar and noted the positive effects this was having in encouraging the return of the civilian population to the area and on non-governmental organization services. She noted that, at her meeting with RUF leaders, she had stressed that they had to demonstrate concrete evidence of their commitment to peace and to implement the Abuja Agreement, including by dismantling remaining roadblocks (which was subsequently done). The humanitarian needs remained enormous, in particular because of the influx of returning refugees and internally displaced persons. The Deputy Secretary-General acknowledged the need for a more proactive information campaign by UNAMSIL, and had also conveyed to the UNAMSIL leadership that the Security Council expected a firm stance and that they should proceed according to the plan laid out by the Secretary-General in his most recent report.

Angola

The Secretary-General's report on the United Nations Office in Angola was issued on 11 April. It was introduced to Council members by the Secretary-General's Special Adviser on Africa, Ibrahim Gambari, on 25 April. The Special Adviser reported that he would visit Angola from 6 May to continue consultations with the Government of Angola and other stakeholders on how the United Nations could help move the peace process forward. The Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator, Kenzo Oshima, also gave an update on the humanitarian situation. Council members emphasized the need to maintain pressure on UNITA, including through sanctions, and at the same time to encourage the Government of Angola in its steps towards peace and reconciliation and improved governance. They also called for improved humanitarian access to refugees and internally displaced persons.

On 19 April, the Chairman of the Committee established pursuant to resolution 864 (1993) concerning the situation in Angola, Ambassador Richard Ryan of Ireland, briefed the Security Council on his visit to Angola and other countries in the region during April. Council members expressed their support for the efforts of Ambassador Ryan. The Council agreed that the mandate of the monitoring mechanism should be extended for a further six months, and

adopted resolution 1348 (2001) extending the mandate until 19 October 2001.

Burundi

Council members were briefed by the Secretariat on 12 April on the Burundi peace process following the March meeting of the Implementation Monitoring Committee. Some progress had been made, but tensions were increasing over the transitional leadership. Fighting in Burundi had intensified with grave humanitarian impact. The Secretariat also briefed the Council on the recent attack on a World Food Programme convoy, which had left four wounded, one critically. Council members underlined their support for the facilitation role of former President Mandela and the efforts of regional leaders, called for other regional players to strengthen their efforts to bring the armed groups to the table, condemned the attack on the WFP convoy, and called on all parties to respect international humanitarian law.

Eritrea and Ethiopia

The Security Council held a public meeting on 19 April at which it was briefed by the Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, Jean-Marie Guéhenno, on the situation in Ethiopia and Eritrea. The briefing focused on the establishment of the temporary security zone on 18 April and the return of internally displaced persons. Council members welcomed the progress that had been achieved so far in the peace process, and praised the efforts of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Legwaila Joseph Legwaila, and the United Nations Mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea (UNMEE) in this regard. Both sides were urged to work with the Secretary-General to remove the final obstacles to the work of the Boundary Commission, to cooperate fully with UNMEE, and to allow for the safe return of internally displaced persons to areas within the temporary security zone.

Western Sahara

Members of the Council held consultations on 26 April to discuss the recommendation in the Secretary-General's report that the mandate of the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (MINURSO) be extended by two months. Council members expressed continued support for the Secretary-General's Personal Envoy. Concern was voiced about the humanitarian situation, in particular prisoners of war and the needs of the refugees. The Council adopted resolution 1349 (2001) on 27 April, extending the mandate of MINURSO until 30 June 2001.

Asia

Iraq

The Secretary-General issued his report on the activities of the United Nations Iraq-Kuwait Observation Mission (UNIKOM) on 28 March. Council members were briefed by the Secretariat on 4 April. The report highlighted the fact that the situation along the Iraq-Kuwait border remained calm and that UNIKOM continued to carry out its mandated tasks, with the cooperation of the Kuwaiti and Iraqi authorities. The members of the Council concurred with the Secretary-General's recommendation that UNIKOM be maintained.

On 20 April the Secretary-General's High-level Coordinator for missing Kuwaiti and third country nationals and property issues, Ambassador Yuli Vorontsov, gave an oral briefing to Council members. Ambassador Vorontsov reported that he had made no progress in fulfilling his mandate.

East Timor

The Security Council held a public meeting on East Timor on 5 April, at which it was briefed by the Assistant Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, Hédi Annabi, on progress in implementing the mandate of the United Nations Transitional Administration in East Timor, preparations for independence for East Timor, and planning for a United Nations presence after independence.

Afghanistan

Council members were briefed by the Secretariat on 12 April on foreign support for the conflict in Afghanistan. The briefing drew on previous reports of the Secretary-General. The Secretary-General's four-monthly report, issued on 19 April, was discussed by Council members on 26 April.

The Balkans

Resolution 1244 (1999)

The Council was briefed by the Secretariat at a public meeting on 9 April. Discussion focused on the importance of creating the necessary conditions and preparations for Kosovo-wide elections, and on security and extremism. On 12 April, the President briefed Council members on the basis of information provided by the Secretariat about an incident that occurred on 11 April, when a Russian soldier was shot dead and another injured by suspected ethnic Albanian extremists close to Kosovo's eastern boundary. The President expressed to the press the Council members' unequivocal condemnation of this act of violence and of any violence directed against peacekeepers. On 19 April Council members were briefed by the Secretariat on a car bomb attack in Pristina on 18 April in which one person had been killed and four injured. After the meeting, the President told the press that Council members condemned the cowardly terrorist attack, which had been deliberately planned and was clearly ethnically motivated. During the month, Council members agreed in principle to send a mission to Kosovo in June.

Prevlaka, Croatia

The Secretary-General's report, issued on 11 April, was discussed by Council members on 24 April. After the meeting, the President told the press that Council members encouraged the parties to make early progress on confidence-building measures and welcomed the Secretary-General's intention to explore with the parties ways of moving the political process forward.

International Tribunals

On 27 April the Security Council adopted resolution 1350 (2001), in which it forwarded to the General Assembly, in accordance with article 13 ter (1) (d) of the statute of the International Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia, the nominations for ad litem judges of the Tribunal which had been received by the Secretary-General.

Other issues

Civilians in armed conflict

Council members discussed the Secretary-General's report on the protection of civilians in armed conflict in informal consultations on 17 April; this was followed by a public meeting of the Security Council on 23 April. The Council heard briefings by the Deputy Secretary-General and the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, as well as an intervention by the Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator. Both members and non-members of the Council expressed concern at the Secretary-General's comments on the lack of implementation of his previous recommendations and the need to take practical measures to improve the protection of civilians in armed conflict. The President of the Council concluded that further work by the Council was needed.

Working methods

By agreement with other Council members the United Kingdom presidency introduced a number of changes to the Council's working methods as detailed in the attached note. These were aimed at improving the efficiency of the Council, for example by better time management, and promoting greater transparency. These changes were discussed by Council members at the end of the month and it was agreed that future presidencies would try to maintain them, and develop them where possible.

Statements to the press by the President of the Security Council

Kosovo (12 April 2001)

In informal consultations this morning, the Council members started by noting the tragic shooting and killing of a Russian soldier in Kosovo yesterday, 11 April. The Council members wanted to express, and did express, their regrets and condolences to the delegation of the Russian Federation and also condemned this act of violence against the peacekeepers in Kosovo, and were very interested in an investigative follow-up and in action being taken against the perpetrators. That was a sad note on which to start the briefing this morning.

Burundi (12 April 2001)

The Council heard a very full report from the Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs, Kieran Prendergast, on current developments in Burundi, on the basis also of a quite useful factual briefing paper from the Secretariat for members of the Council. The Council wanted the President to make a number of points to the media about that.

The Council wanted to express its support very clearly for the facilitation by former President Mandela, which is continuing, and for the efforts by regional leaders to support that facilitation. Members of the Council called on the signatories to the Arusha Agreement to pursue efforts aimed at dialogue reflecting the spirit of the Arusha Agreement and to refrain from any action that might compromise progress already made or contribute to a further deterioration of the situation on the ground, which remains quite worrying. They also called on the armed rebel groups that are not yet signatories to the Arusha Agreement to cease violence, which is continuing in Burundi, and to pursue dialogue aimed at the cessation of hostilities. They supported and indeed encouraged regional leaders and the signatories themselves to back up this message to the armed rebel groups to put down their weapons and enter the process of dialogue. That is an important ancillary point to the Council's appeal to the signatories themselves.

Members of the Council condemned the recent acts of violence that have occurred on the ground in Burundi, which include attacks on humanitarian workers and on convoys. Most recently a WFP convoy was attacked. In condemning those attacks they urged the parties to observe international humanitarian law, to allow access for humanitarian workers to those who need assistance, and to refrain of course from the kind of vicious attacks witnessed in recent days.

Middle East (18 April 2001)

Council members heard a briefing by the Assistant Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, Hédi Annabi, on what they saw as a dangerous escalation across the blue line between Israel and Lebanon established by the United Nations. They also expressed deep concern at the recent violent action in the Gaza Strip and surrounding areas. In expressing their support for the statement issued by the Secretary-General on 16 April, Council members condemned the renewed cycle of violence that has inflamed the already tense situation in the region. They called on all parties to respect the blue line, to exercise maximum restraint and to refrain from any action that would exacerbate the situation further. They also insisted on respect for Security Council resolutions 425 (1978) and 1337 (2001). Council members will continue to follow the situation in the region very closely.

Democratic Republic of the Congo (18 April 2001)

The Council expressed warm appreciation for the hard work and, explicitly, the courage of the Panel of Experts in drawing up and expressing frankly in their report the views and the facts they presented. Members of the Council have a unanimous desire to bring to an end the illegitimate exploitation of the natural resources of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and there will be further work to be done, but very probably at an open meeting of the Council, still to be arranged, because they wish to hear the views of non-members of the Council concerned with this question at that open meeting. The Council members will continue to work with the Panel itself. This is the beginning of a series of discussions in the Council both informally and at the open meeting, and quite a lot of action can be expected over this, spaced out in time. The Council will not come to any conclusions today.

Kosovo (19 April 2001)

The members of the Council heard a briefing by the Assistant Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations on the bombing in Pristina yesterday, in which the head of the Yugoslav passport office in Pristina was killed, another member of the office was critically injured, and two other people were injured. Members of the Council regarded this as another deliberately planned and clearly ethnically motivated attack on Serbs in Kosovo. They condemned what they saw as a cowardly terrorist attack and insisted that the perpetrators should be brought quickly to justice. They called on Kosovo leaders also to condemn such a senseless act and to do all they could to stop similar incidents. Extremist violence had to become a thing of the past. Members of the Council reiterated their call on all parties to resume the path of dialogue and they will continue to follow this issue very closely.

Democratic Republic of the Congo (20 April 2001)

Members of the Council heard a briefing by the Assistant Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations to follow up the Secretary-General's recent report on the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and are in the middle of an interesting discussion of an overall strategy towards the DRC leading up of course to the proposed mission to the Great Lakes region, which will leave New York around 16 May.

Members welcomed the progress made so far in the disengagement of forces under the agreements signed between the parties. There were two recent positive developments, namely the difficulties we had both with FLC and Mr. Bemba and with RCD-Goma, with the Ambassadors from Kinshasa meeting Mr. Onosumba yesterday in Goma, have been resolved successfully and that adds to the progress. Members of the Council expect all parties to live up fully to their commitments under the disengagement agreements, cooperate unreservedly with MONUC in taking those plans forward, and, not least, draw up realistic plans — which are due by 15 May — for the complete withdrawal of foreign troops from the Democratic Republic of the Congo as called for in resolution 1304 (2000). The Council members also want to see realistic plans for a demobilization, disarmament, reconciliation and reintegration process and have seen the importance of that in Sierra Leone and other contexts. It is going to be vital for the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

Secondly, members of the Council are deeply disturbed by the continuing reports of horrific violence, particularly in the eastern part of the Democratic Republic of the Congo. The Secretary-General's report refers to this violence in some areas as having an almost genocidal character, which is a nasty echo of previous history. In resolution 1341 (2001), the Council called on all parties to the Lusaka Agreement to cease support for the armed rebel groups that are mainly responsible for the continuing local horrific violence; that assistance has to stop, and the parties have to come up with plans to cease the activities of the armed rebel groups that are not signatories to the Lusaka Agreement. It is a very important part of the story to come and the Council is not going to let go of it. The mission will focus on these two areas very particularly. The Secretary-General has invited the Council to a retreat in the Pocantico Hills on 4 and 5 May where the subject will be the Great Lakes region. Policy discussion will continue.

Kuwaiti and third country nationals (20 April 2001)

On the missing Kuwaiti and third country nationals, the Council members heard a very good and full briefing from the High-level Coordinator, Ambassador Vorontsov. This is one area where the Council is unanimous on Iraq in support for the work of Ambassador Vorontsov and for his continuing efforts; in expressing deep concern at the plight of the Kuwaiti and third country nationals still missing; and in expressing their hope that there will, at some stage soon, at last, be some progress in what is a strictly humanitarian issue. It has no direct connection with the other parts of the Iraq issue on the agenda. There was deep concern that there has been no movement whatsoever since the High-level Coordinator's last report when everyone, from Ambassador Vorontsov on, are convinced that there is more information to be obtained from the Iraqi side. Members of the Council stressed the importance of continuing dialogue among all parties on this subject, with the involvement of the International Committee of the Red Cross and the Tripartite Commission, and urged Iraq fully to cooperate with Ambassador Vorontsov and with all other agencies and bodies dealing with the issue. Council members were very keen that, when Member States and the Secretariat had contacts with Iraq, this issue should continue to be brought up, and must be ground away at until there are some results on something that has taken far too long.

Prevlaka (24 April 2001)

Council members heard a briefing by the Assistant Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations on Prevlaka in Croatia, concerning the activities of the United Nations Mission of Observers in Prevlaka. The members of the Council welcomed the fact that the situation remained stable and calm, and voiced their continuing support for the Chief Military Observer in Prevlaka and for UNMOP. They expressed concern about the long-standing violations of the security regime in the United Nations-controlled zone and called for unrestricted freedom of action for UNMOP. Council members noted that no progress had been made towards a political settlement and encouraged the parties to make early progress on the

confidence-building measures conveyed informally to them by the Secretariat in October 1999. They welcomed the Secretary-General's intention to assess the situation before the end of the present mandate of UNMOP on 15 July with a view to exploring with the parties ways of moving the political process forward.

Angola and the Democratic Republic of the Congo (25 April 2001)

The members of the Council heard quite an extensive briefing on Angola by the Under-Secretary-General and Special Adviser to the Secretary-General, Ibrahim Gambari, who is following a political initiative for the Secretary-General on Angola, and the Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs, Kenzo Oshima, who reported on the humanitarian situation.

There is very strong support within the Security Council for the work which Mr. Gambari is doing for the Secretary-General in taking forward the process of international support for reconciliation and internal dialogue in Angola, under the terms of the Lusaka Protocols and with the support of the Government of Angola obviously. The United Nations Office in Angola was extended through agreement by the Council last week for a further six months, and is moving into this process and also into support for the humanitarian efforts of the international community in Angola. Members of the Council were distressed still at the dire humanitarian situation in Angola. There are people who are putting politics before the needs of the Angolan people in this process, and this is causing huge disruption, upset and human misery. Access for the international organizations and humanitarian workers in Angola is needed, as is delivery of aid beyond the points those people have already reached. Children are suffering in particular and there is substantial underfunding, as Mr. Oshima pointed out, for humanitarian aid in Angola. The international community must respond more urgently to the appeal for funds from the United Nations and others. Meanwhile members of the Council feel that the Government of Angola is working in the right direction in establishing a reconciliation and amnesty process, in moving towards elections late in 2002, and in otherwise pursuing the Lusaka process. Members of the Council feel that UNITA is not responding; in particular Mr. Savimbi is not responding to this process. It is becoming a more open process. There is room for all members at the top of UNITA to respond to this and the Council wants to see that happen. Mr. Gambari will return to the Council after his visit in May and this issue will be discussed further.

The Council members also heard a briefing by the Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs on the Democratic Republic of the Congo, which he visited in the second week of April. Again, there is a horrific humanitarian situation, and again significant underfunding: so far only 13 per cent of the $72 million United Nations appeal for the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Governments of Member States are urgently requested to look at that underfunding. Donors must come forward for both the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Angola. There is a lot of work still to be done.

Western Sahara (26 April 2001)

Council members were briefed on the latest situation with regard to Western Sahara on 26 April. They expressed general support for the efforts of the United Nations system, in particular the Secretary-General and his Personal Envoy, to find a peaceful settlement to the dispute. They are considering the recommendation of the Secretary-General to extend the mandate of MINURSO for two months.

Among other issues, in the discussion of the Secretary-General's recent report, all members of the Council expressed considerable concern at the lack of progress in resolving the dispute and in taking forward the humanitarian issues, particularly refugees, prisoners of war and missing persons. They discussed the need for adequate funding for the UNHCR programme to assist refugees in the camps, especially the most vulnerable group. Council members also found the delay in releasing prisoners of war unacceptable. They urged the parties to liberate all persons still detained in connection with the conflict. This issue was not linked with political considerations and should be resolved urgently.

Afghanistan (26 April 2001)

Council members noted the expectation of large-scale fighting — although the United Front were ready to resume dialogue at any time. This was shocking in the context of the appalling humanitarian situation and continued displacement of people. A peacefully negotiated political settlement was the only way to a lasting settlement. The Council continued to have the

highest regard for the peace efforts of the Secretary-General, his Personal Representative, Francesc Vendrell, and others. Council members called on all States to abide by resolutions 1267 (1999) and 1333 (2000).

Members noted that the displacement of persons continued, and was likely to increase further. They called on all States to contribute urgently to the consolidated appeal fund and expressed support for the two-pronged approach to the problem of refugees worked out by the United Nations and Pakistan. They noted that further work would be done within the Council and the Secretariat on a comprehensive strategy.

Democratic Republic of the Congo (27 April 2001)

The Council was briefed on the death of six International Committee of the Red Cross workers in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Council members have just had a minute's silence in the main Chamber to pay respect to those who lost their lives. The Council members wanted the President to make clear in public that they vigorously condemned those murders. Who did it is not yet known and investigations are going on. But these were humanitarian workers in the course of their duties, courageous people whose lives were brutally taken. The reason is unknown at the moment, and that made the Council worry not just about the safety of humanitarian and other United Nations and international workers, but also about the peace process in the Democratic Republic of the Congo if this is the reaction when international workers are going about their normal business to help the people of that country. Security Council members wanted it to be clear that they were calling on everyone with any authority in the Democratic Republic of the Congo to try to make sure that such incidents did not happen. There is responsibility for those with military or executive authority in each area to try to prevent these things from happening, because there have been far too many examples of them in the recent period. The members of the Council paid their respects to the Governments and people of Colombia, Switzerland and the Democratic Republic of the Congo in condemning those murders.

The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (30 April 2001)

Members of the Security Council strongly condemn the cowardly and brutal attack on Macedonian service personnel on Saturday, 28 April which left eight persons dead and a further six injured. They condemn all violence by ethnic Albanian armed extremists in the north of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, which constitutes a threat to that country and the entire region. They call for an immediate end to all such acts and for full implementation of resolution 1345 (2001). There is no place for all those who use violence, espouse extremism, resort to terrorism, create tension, defy international legality and try to oppose democratization and reconciliation.

Members of the Council commend the Government of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia for its restraint in the face of recent provocations from groups working against the interests of the wider community. They also commend the steps taken by the Government to strengthen its multi-ethnic democracy and foster harmony between its communities, and encourage the citizens and political leaders of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia to continue to pursue the path of dialogue.

They welcome the statements of Macedonian ethnic Albanian political leaders and the Prime Minister of Albania, Ilir Meta, condemning this attack, and reiterate the call in resolution 1345 (2001) on all community and political leaders throughout the region to condemn publicly ethnically motivated attacks and to promote inter-ethnic tolerance.

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Working Methods of the Security Council

1. The United Kingdom Presidency during April 2001 will try to apply the following guidelines:

- All meetings will start on time. Informal consultations will be scheduled at 10.30 a.m. (and 3.30 p.m. if necessary) and will start no more than five minutes late, even if not all delegations are present (the exception would be negotiations on draft decisions of the Council, when all delegations must be present);

- Active agenda management is necessary to maximize value for time. The timetable of informal consultations will give an indication of when individual subjects will be discussed. The President asks for the cooperation of colleagues in moving items along. In particular, colleagues are asked to be as brief as possible, not to speak for form's sake only and to concentrate on operational issues in their interventions;
- The morning session of informal consultations will finish no later than 1.15 p.m.;
- Press statements should be lightly negotiated and should consist of no more than three or four brief points for the President to make, unless the Council is aiming to make a detailed, substantive presentation;
- The Presidency will aim to chair discussions during informal consultations in as interactive a style as possible;
- In the interests of transparency, as many briefings as possible, if not politically sensitive, will take place in formal meetings in the Council Chamber. For routine items, it might be appropriate to lighten the style of the Presidency's chairmanship in formal meetings;
- Draft agendas of formal meetings will generally be read out by the President, and not circulated in writing, particularly on existing and uncontroversial items;
- The pause between informal consultations and formal meetings to adopt resolutions/presidential statements will be as short as possible;
- During Council votes, if all 15 members have voted in favour, the President will not ask for negative votes or abstentions.

2. Members of the Council are asked for their cooperation to the fullest extent possible. Nothing in these suggestions affects in any way the right of Council members to take what time they need to fulfil their responsibilities.